

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-57, and add new claims 58-72, as follows.

Listing of Claims

1-57. (CANCELED)

58. (NEW) A gutter catheter for performing annuloplasty, the gutter catheter comprising:

a distal catheter portion adapted to be received into a heart, said distal catheter portion including at least one sidewall defining a lumen along the catheter; and

an aperture in said distal catheter portion and communicating with said lumen to facilitate the delivery of elements through said lumen and said aperture to the tissue of the heart;

said distal catheter portion shaped to correspond to the contour of the gutter of a mitral valve of the heart.

59. (NEW) The gutter catheter of claim 58, wherein said aperture extends through said sidewall.

60. (NEW) The gutter catheter of claim 59, further comprising an element delivery member in said lumen, said element delivery member operable to extend an element through said aperture.

61. (NEW) The gutter catheter of claim 59, further comprising a second aperture in a terminal end of said distal catheter portion.

62. (NEW) The gutter catheter of claim 60, further comprising a second element delivery member in said lumen, said second element delivery member operable to extend a second element through said second aperture.

63. (NEW) The gutter catheter of claim 58, wherein said distal catheter portion is convertible between a first condition wherein said distal catheter portion has a shape that does not conform to the contour of the gutter of the mitral valve, and a second condition wherein the shape of said distal catheter portion conforms to the contour of the gutter of the mitral valve.

64. (NEW) A method of performing annuloplasty, comprising:
directing the end of a gutter catheter into the gutter of a mitral valve of a heart;
extending the end of the gutter catheter around the contour of the gutter of the mitral valve; and
delivering an element through the gutter catheter to the tissue of the heart near the mitral valve.

65. (NEW) The method of claim 64, wherein the gutter catheter includes at least one sidewall and an aperture through the sidewall, the method further comprising:

delivering the element through the aperture.

66. (NEW) The method of claim 65, further comprising:

inflating a balloon to deliver the element to the tissue of the heart.

67. (NEW) The method of claim 64, further comprising:

tracking the catheter over a guide wire.

68. (NEW) The method of claim 64, wherein the element delivered to the tissue of the heart is a first anchor with a first tail.

69. (NEW) The method of claim 68, further comprising:

delivering a first locker over the first tail of the first anchor.

70. (NEW) The method of claim 69, further comprising:

delivering a second anchor through the gutter catheter to the tissue of the heart near the mitral valve, the second anchor having a second tail; and
delivering the first locker over the second tail of the second anchor.

71. (NEW) The method of claim 64, further comprising:
directing a first catheter to an area of the heart adjacent the mitral valve; and
extending the gutter catheter from the first catheter.
72. The method of claim 64, further comprising:
converting the gutter catheter from a first condition wherein a distal catheter
portion has a shape that does not conform to the contour of the gutter of the mitral
valve, to a second condition wherein the shape of the distal catheter portion conforms to
the contour of the gutter of the mitral valve.